

16306902

I917.7342  
ARGY  
1987  
c.3

ILLINOIS

# Argyle Lake

STATE PARK

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

JUN 12 1987

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



# CONSERVATION

## THE PARK

Argyle Lake State Park, in western Illinois, is seven miles west of Macomb and two miles north of Colchester off U.S. 136. The state purchased the 1,148-acre park in 1948 as part of the small lakes program, which provides Illinois citizens with recreational facilities within a short distance from home.

## THE LAKE

Soon after the park was purchased, lake construction started on a tributary of the East Fork of the LaMoine River, the principal stream in this area.

Completed in 1949, the lake consists of 93 acres and has a drainage of approximately 3,800 acres. There is a shoreline of nearly six miles. The longest part of the lake is 1.2 miles and its greatest width is 750 feet.

Steep banks line the four arms which are shallow on their ends, but the lake generally has an average depth of 15 feet and runs to a depth of 40 feet.

Argyle Lake was stocked with fish in 1950 but because of its deep water, it did not produce adequate fish food. In 1970 the lake was completely drained and all rough fish removed. The lake was then restocked with desirable fish species.

## HISTORY

A group of early settlers of McDonough County originated the first Cumberland Presbyterian Church which met at the residence of John McCord. In 1854, the congregation moved to the Argyle Presbyterian Church near the west part of the park. The church founders, of Scottish descent, gave the community its name from Scotland's famous county of Argyle.

Argyle Hollow, an area presently occupied by the lake, was formerly part of the old stage route northwest from Beardstown to Galena, passing through McDonough County about six miles west of Macomb. Galena was one of the most important points in the state at this time. Several times a week for a number of years, the high-wheeled, cumbersome coaches with their double teams of horses, rumbled through this section of beautiful hills and valleys.

## NATURAL SCENE

Some of the park's wooded areas are thought to be virgin timber. Deer are occasionally seen, and fox, raccoon, mink, muskrat, beaver, skunk, rabbit, quail, squirrel, weasel, and opossum inhabit the area. A variety of trees and flowers can be identified while hiking in the park. Students from Western Illinois University, Macomb and other schools use the park as an outdoor laboratory.

In addition to plant and animal life there is much to interest the geologist. There are outcroppings of coal, iron ore,



### Special Event

*During the Labor Day weekend, Argyle Lake is the scene of a very large gathering of visitors enjoying all the crafts of yesteryear. There are demonstrations of wheat threshing, hay baling, sawmilling, sorghum making, blacksmithing, broom making, spinning, horseshoeing, quilt making, whittling, hook rug making, weaving, and many others. Also on display are hundreds of antique tractors, cars, and gas engines. One hundred sixty-five flea marketeers will be selling their wares.*

stone, and clay. With the exception of iron, these minerals have considerable local economic value. Mining of coal nearby was formerly an important industry. Today several limestone quarries are in operation.

### FACILITIES

**Picnicking** — There are 10 picnic areas scattered around the lake with tables and park stoves. Playground equipment and water is available.

**Concession Stand** — Located near the boat dock, the stand offers boat and canoe rental, refreshments, hot meals, and bait.

**Boating and Fishing** — The lake contains bluegill, red-ear, channel catfish, largemouth bass, crappie, tiger muskie, and rainbow trout. Fishing boats and canoes can be rented and there are docks available for visitor's boats and pontoons. There is one boat launch and the motor limit is 10 hp.

**Camping** — Spaces are available for tent and trailer camping. Electrical outlets and a disposal station are provided for trailers. All campers must obtain a permit from park personnel. Youth group camping is available.

**Winter Sports** — Ice skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and sledding are all popular in the winter.

**Equestrian Trails** — In 1985 Argyle Lake added a seven-mile horse trail. This trail is a rugged, well-liked trail for experienced riders. Horse campgrounds are available.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site manager has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, Giant City, White Pines Forest, and Cave-In-Rock. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All sites are open year-round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more information about this site, contact Site Superintendent, R.R. #2, Colchester, IL 62326, phone (309) 776-3422. For more information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Division of Land Management, Springfield, IL 62706.



3 0112 122557355



3 1129 00449 3151